

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing multimedia programs that are not playable on a digital audio player, said programs being composed of composite signals including an audio program component and a video component ~~including an audio component in a first format, said apparatus converting said audio component into a second format playable by a digital audio device that is incompatible with said first format~~ comprising:

an input port used to receive a composite signal ~~multimedia program~~;

~~a separator~~ an extractor coupled to said input port and adapted to selectively ~~separate~~ extract ~~said multimedia program to generate an audio signal in said first format and a video signal~~ said audio component from said composite signal without extracting said video signal;

a processor that processes said audio ~~signal~~ component to generate a processed audio signal in a said second format that can be received and played by ~~said~~ the digital audio player; and

~~a memory storing said processed audio signal as a digital file playable on said digital audio file~~

an output port for outputting said processed audio signal.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~first format~~ audio component includes a multichannel audio signal and wherein said ~~second format~~ processed signal includes a stereo audio signal.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal ~~in said first format~~ to generate said ~~processed- stereo~~ audio signal ~~in said second format~~.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating an audio output in a format that can be played by a digital audio player from composite signals that is incompatible with said audio player, said apparatus comprising:

a broadband input port adapted to receive a multimedia program ~~from the network~~ including a composite signal including an audio and a video component ;

a data storage adapted to store said multimedia program;

a controller adapted to receive selections from a user and to generate commands responsive to said selections;

an extractor responsive to said commands and adapted to receive said multimedia program and to selectively extract said audio component without said video component from said multimedia program;

a processor processing said audio ~~signal component~~ to generate a digital audio signal in a ~~second~~ format that is playable by ~~a the~~ digital audio player; and

~~a memory for storing said digital signal as an audio file playable by said digital audio player~~

an output port outputting said second output signal.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein audio ~~signal is~~ component includes a multichannel audio signal; and wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal, and an encoder adapted to encode the folded audio signal using a standard compression protocol to generate said digital output signal.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to ~~encoded~~ encode said folded audio signal using an MPEG protocol.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to encode said folded audio signal using an ATRAC protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a multimedia program for play on an incompatible digital audio device comprising the steps of:

receiving said multimedia program, said multimedia program including an audio component and a video component;

extracting said audio component from said multimedia program without extracting said video component ~~and an audio signal in said first format, said audio signal not being playable on said digital audio device;~~

processing said audio ~~signal~~ component to generate a processed audio signal in a ~~second format~~ compatible with the digital audio device so that said processed audio signal is playable on the digital audio device; and

~~saving said processed audio signal as an audio file playable on the digital audio device~~
outputting said processed signal to the digital audio device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program is received electronically from a distribution network, further comprising storing said multimedia program.

19-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said ~~first format~~ multimedia program is a compressed format and said second ~~format~~ processed audio signal is an uncompressed format.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein first format includes a multi-channel audio signal and said second format includes a stereo channel audio signal.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising extracting from said multimedia program a metadata component and storing said metadata component as part of said audio file.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a multimedia program for playing at least an audio component of the program on an incompatible digital multimedia player, said method comprising:

receiving said multimedia program, ~~said program having a first format that is not playable by the digital multimedia player;~~

selectively separating extracting from said multimedia program in response to
commands from a user said audio component ~~into a video signal and an audio signal, said~~
~~audio signal having a format incompatible with the digital multimedia player;~~

processing said audio ~~signal~~ component to generate a processed audio signal having a
~~second~~ format compatible with the digital multimedia player; and

~~saving said processed audio signal and said video signal together as a processed~~
~~multimedia file playable on the digital multimedia player~~

selectively outputting said processed audio signal to the digital audio player.

29 (New). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port is adapted to receive a broadband multimedia program.

30 (New). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port includes a media reader.

31 (New). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said input port includes a DVD reader.

32 (New). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processed signal is a compressed signal in one of an MPEG and an ATRAC standard.

33 (New). The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol and wherein said extractor is adapted to use said MPEG protocol to extract said audio component.

34 (New). The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said folder circuit folds said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal.

35 (New). The method of claim 17 wherein said multichannel program includes a multichannel audio signal, further comprising folding said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal.

36 (New). The method of claim 17 further comprising compressing said processed audio signal.

37 (New). The method of claim 36 wherein said processed audio is compressed one of an MPEG and an ATRAC protocol.

38 (New). The method of claim 17 further comprising saving said processed output signal before it is output to said digital audio device.